

Questions and Answers DACW37-03-R-0003

Question No 1.) This question is in reference to the November 7 solicitation on the Federal Business Opportunities website called "Total small business set aside for engineering services covering the full range of hydraulic and hydrologic activities associated with the planning, design and construction of water management structures". Is there a feel for the percentage of task orders that would be modeling in nature, versus design related?

Answer No 1.) No. The contract in question is an Indefinite Delivery Type Contract and the type and amount of work to be contracted is yet to be determined. Therefore, those preparing a submittal for this solicitation should include the full range of hydraulic and hydrologic qualifications.

Question No 2.) Could the District shed any light on the definition of "water management structures". Does this mean locks, dams, levees, and channels? Are there any other specific structures that the District had in mind when issuing the solicitation?

Answer No 2.) For this contract we will define water control structures as dams, levees, floodwalls, channels, interior flood control facilities and grade control structures. However, for this solicitation, the term does not include locks.

Question No 3.) The synopsis indicates that this is a "total small business set-aside." Does this mean that all of the work must be done by full-time employees of a firm that is registered as a small business with the State of Minnesota? I work for a large engineering firm. Our firm oftentimes teams with Small or Disadvantaged business enterprises on government projects. Can team with a small business for this opportunity?

Answer No 3.) The statement that this is a "total small business set-aside" means that only small businesses under the NAICS code 541330 are eligible to be a prime contractor under this requirement. Competition is not limited to small businesses registered within the State of Minnesota and small businesses are not prohibited from subcontracting portions of the work to large businesses. However, small businesses must consistently perform at least 50 percent of the work performed under the contract. The 50 percent requirement will be applied to the overall contract and not be applied on a per Task Order basis. The Contracting Officer will regularly monitor Task Order awards to ensure that the small business prime contractor is performing at least 50 percent of the effort on the cumulative contract.

Question No 4.) I work for a large civil engineering firm specializing in hydrology and hydraulics. We are interested in developing a relationship with a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) for not only this project but future ones as well. We have successful experience in the "Mentor/Protégé" program and wish to expand our relationships.

Could you please provide me with a list of firms interested in this set aside project so we may contact them for a possible relationship?

Answer No 4.) No. We will not be disclosing the names of the firms interested in this effort. However, small businesses interested in subcontracting with the firm in Question No 4 may contact the firm at the following address:

Michelle O'Brien
The Keith Companies
19 Technology Drive
Irvine, CA 92618
949-923-6075

Question No 5.) To whom should submissions be sent?

Answer No 5.) Send submissions to the attention of Laird C. Draves, Contracting Officer.

Question No 6.) The number of project submissions is limited to 10. Does this apply to the entire team, or can the prime contractor and each subcontractor submit 10 each?

Answer No 6.) Each prime and each subcontractor may submit 10 project references.

Question No 7.) Do subcontractors need to submit forms 254 and 255 to the contracting office?

Answer No 7.) Subcontractors do not need to submit form 255. However, form 254 is required for subcontractors. This form must be provided to the prime contractor and included in the prime contractor's submittal. Subcontractors should not submit the form 254 directly to the contracting office.

Question No 8.) If a large business is used as a subcontractor will that subcontract be viewed negatively when compared to submittals from firms exclusively using small business subcontracts?

Answer No 8.) No. As stated in the synopsis, the award will be based upon capability to perform the work. Small business participation is mandated at the prime contract level, not at the subcontract level.